

CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T/NOFORN

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT KVP Recruiting Drive

DATE DISTR. 17 May 1955

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

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1. On 1 April 1955, an intensified recruitment campaign for the KVP was started in East Berlin. Three-man commissions including one representative each of the KVP, the FDJ and the SED factory group, visited industrial enterprises and private homes. They had lists contraining the names of all males of the 1933 through 1937 classes. In their recruitment activities they bring pressure to bear. They are for example pointing out to members of the FDJ and of SED factory groups that these two organizations have declared service with the KVP obligatory, and they threaten those who refuse the volunteer for the KVP with expulsion from these organizations. It was pointed out that grave consequences would result from such a measure. The recruitment commissions first visited nationalized enterprise and administration agencies.
2. Incidents are said to have occurred at Kabelwerk Oberspree and VEB Elektrokohle at Berlin-Lichtenberg when some of the young workers refused to sign contracts for voluntary service with the KVP. The shop trade union management of Kabelwerk Oberspree refused to bring pressure to bear on the workers involved because, according to them, such pressure would only be justified if universal military service had been decreed for the GDR.
3. In East Berlin, only members of the SED factory groups are to join the KVP, whereas young people not belonging to the SED are to serve with the regular police. This difference was not made in the Zone.

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Comment. The present report shows that the recruitment campaign for the KVP is to be intensified. The GMR regime apparently believes it inadvisable to promulgate universal military service at the present time.

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